## Spanish-Speaking Students: Cross-Language Issues in the Classroom

Read the classroom area of concern in the first column. Locate the yellow card with the possible language-based explanation and place it in the second column. Then, find the green card that identifies the instructional area that may target that explanation and place it in the third column.

Classroom area of concern	Possible language-based explanation	Instructional area of support
Ramón has difficulty perceiving and producing some English sounds; this produces communication problems.	There are more vowel sounds in English than in Spanish. Some consonants are pronounced differently in the two languages.	Use mi muscle words; a
Maria reads some common words in an unexpected way.	The child may be using phoneme-based rules, and maybe Spanish sounds, to decode English words that use word parts as the basis for pronunciation.	Teach English patterns of pronunciation that use letter clusters, syllable types and morphological parts.
Fernando shows difficulty spelling words that use diphthongs and silent letters.	Spanish vowels show more consistent pronunciations; most letters in Spanish words are pronounced.	systematic way, starting with those that are more frequently used, and proceeding to those that are less frequently used.
Laura seems very slow when reading and having to respond orally, and when doing writing tasks in the classroom, and does not work well under pressure.	She may be in the early stages of learning English, and acclimatizing to a new environment, and this is putting heavy demands on her working memory.	Teach vocabulary in an explicit fashion, in order to help with reading fluency, and consider time accommodations as part of classroom activities.
Veronica has problems when using language as part of classroom activities; she seems deficient in productive skills.	She is not familiar with colloquial expressions, English syntax or the oragmatics of language in her second anguage.	Provide language response formats that help develop new language structures in English.
Juan is deficient in almost every area of He may have had weak linguist language, and shows very weak knowledgexperiences in Spanish, which may have in the basics of almost every subject area. been reinforced with inconsistent schooling.	۵ <u>ن</u>	Provide additional targeted instruction to help develop English proficiency as well as to acquire new concepts and skills.

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acquire new concepts and skills.